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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/039,176	03/13/1998	CAROL MARY RINES		9263

7590 05/19/2004

RINES AND RINES
81 NORTH STATE STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301

EXAMINER

DAVIS, DAVID DONALD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2652

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

40

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/039,176

Applicant(s)

RINES ET AL.

Examiner

David D. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 14,16-20,22,23,25,27,28,30-33,35 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14,16-20,22,23,25,27,28,30-33,35 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 14,16-20,22,23,25,27,28,30-33,35 and 36 are 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al (US 4,698,838) in view of Dubus (US 4,731,811). Ishikawa et al shows in figure 1 steering wheel region 4 and vehicle cellular radiotelephone 2 for use by a driver in a vehicle.

Ishikawa et al is silent, however, as to a voice controlled switching mechanism programmed with and responsive to a plurality of pre-designated separate voice commands for operation of an "entertainment deck" and cellular radio telephone.

Dubus shows in figures 1-3 voice controlled switching mechanism 2 and 3 programmed with and responsive to a plurality of pre-designated separate voice commands for operation of "entertainment deck" 8 and 9 and cellular radio telephone 12.

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It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to provide the cellular radio telephone in the steering wheel of Ishikawa et al with a voice controlled mechanism as taught by Dubus. The rationale is as follows: one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to provide a cellular radio telephone in a steering wheel with a voice controlled mechanism to provide a hands-free telephone system. See column 1, line 40 through line 5 of column 2.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicants' arguments filed March 3, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the third paragraph on page 7 applicant states the following:

While Dubus does indeed refer to a radio 9, **this is actually not used for a radio-program reception** entertainment function but **only to borrow its amplifier-loudspeaker circuit** for the convenience of hearing the "radio telephone 12 . . . speech" (Col. 4, line 1-30). Emphasis added.

According to *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition* radio is defined as "An apparatus used to receive radio signals; a receiver". According to *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition* amplifier is defined as "*Electronics* A device, especially one using transistors or electron tubes, that produces amplification of an electrical signal". If Dubus was discloses **only** an "amplifier-loudspeaker circuit", Dubus would have disclosed an "amplifier-loudspeaker circuit", which is congruent with the definition of amplifier. However, Dubus discloses a radio, which corresponds to the definition of radio supra.

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Furthermore, applicant's conclusion that since Dubus discloses utilizing an amplifier in a radio, Dubus **only** uses the amplifier function of the radio is curious. Utilizing an amplifier in a radio does not preclude the use of a radio to receive radio signals as suggested by applicant.

In the fourth paragraph on page 4, applicant asserts the following:

There is absolutely no disclosure of, suggestion or even purpose for a pre-designated voice command for switching the car radio 9 or the demodulator 8, and certainly not any separate voice commands for respectively switching a plurality of separate entertainment deck components.

It is curious that applicant's conclusion, *supra*, is not supported by Dubus. In fact, applicant provides no assertion contrary to the rejection *supra*, that *states Dubus shows in figures 1-3 voice controlled switching mechanism 2 and 3 programmed with and responsive to a plurality of pre-designated separate voice commands for operation of "entertainment deck" 8 and 9 and cellular radio telephone 12*. Dubus clearly shows speech recognition system 3; switching units 40-43; and a pre-designated voice command flow chart in figures 1-3 respectively.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

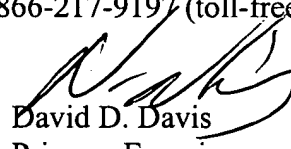
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Davis whose telephone number is (703) 308-1503. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday between 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (703) 305-9687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David D. Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

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